

GMO Questions

I am (consumers are) worried about GE products/GMOs in food. What should I (they) buy?

Look for the USDA certified organic label, because the organic standards do not allow GMOs in certified organic foods. You may also look for non-GMO claims that are independently verified, for example by the Non-GMO Project.

Can you tell me (your customers) what non-organic products contain GMOs?

There is no regulated labeling protocol for products containing GMOs. We can only tell you to look for certified organic products, and products that make third-party verified 'non-GMO' claims. Fresh whole foods are less likely to contain GMOs than processed foods.

Why isn't your co-op labeling all non-organic products as "could contain GMOs"?

As a co-op, we are dedicated to meeting the needs of all of our customers. We support the right of consumers to make their own purchase decision. We also support their right to accurate info to make those decisions. However, it would be impossible for our co-op to test every product available in the market.

We think OCA would be better served to add their resources to the regulatory/legal fight to label GMO products versus targeting food co-ops and other retailers who have long supported organics and consumers' right to information.

Are there specific products that might contain GMOs?

The first genetically modified crops were corn, soybeans, and cotton, which were engineered to control the growth of weeds and resist insects. Sugar beets are another crop which has recently been deregulated. Since these are common ingredients in processed food, GMOs are appearing in more and more products.

What is the co-op doing about GMOs?

We are members of National Cooperative Grocers Association (NCGA), which works with many organizations on behalf of all food co-ops to fight the deregulation of GMOs at the regulatory and legal level. (Insert other info on the product policies of your co-op, as applicable.)

What can I (your customers) do to fight GMOs?

Contact your legislators and add your voice to the campaign to prevent deregulation of GMOs and label GE foods. Visit the Center for Food Safety (www.centerforfoodsafety.org) to learn more.